1986. Generally, the President and Members of the District Fora are entitled for such travelling allowance and daily allowances on official tour as are admissible to Group A officers of the State Government.

(c) Under the provisions of the Consumer Protection Rules, 1987, the District Forum shall have power to require any person to produce before, and allow to be examined or kept by an officer of the District Forum, such books, accounts documents etc. in his custody, if examination of such books, accounts, documents are required for the purposes of the Act.

(d) and (e) Under the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986, the District Forum consists of three members including the President and its decisions are decisions of the majority. As such, the question of exercising all the functions and powers solely by the President does not arise.

National Service Scheme for consumer movement

1230. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(i) whether Government are considering a proposal to induct National Service Scheme Coordinators from educational institutions to lead the consumer movement ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Consumer movement is lagging behind due to lack of public participation ;

(c) whether there is a demand for Government funds to train people to participate effectively in the consumer movement; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government to make funds available to train people through the Bureau of Indian Standards, Department of Weights and Measures and various other institutions ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The consumer movement is still in its infancy in the country. However, as a result of number of measures taken by the Government and a few consumer organisations, an alert consumer is emerging on the scene who is aware of his rights as a consumer.

(c) and (d) At present, Government is conducting training programmes for various sections of the society with the help of well known training institutions such as IIPA, New Delhi, NIRD, Hyderabad and State Level training institutions. For this purpose, funds are placed at their disposal. Such training programmes are being conducted for voluntary consumer organisations, state government officials and non-judicial members of the redressal agencies set up usder the Consumer Protections Act, 1986.

Acute shortage of essential commodities in Assam

1231. SHRI TARA CHARAN MAJUMDAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an acute shortage of essential items in the State of Assam and the people are being harassed ;

(b) if so, whether the State Government has approached the Central Government for extra supply of essential items in the State ; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND THE MINISTER OF